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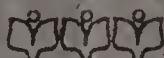
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Chicago Tribune Employed Burns Detectives,
Who Manufactured Evidence Intended
to Convict an Honest Man of
the Crime of Perjury



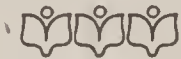
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Senator William Lorimer and Edward Hines



By FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS

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STARTLING EXPOSURE OF A DELIBERATE CONSPIRACY AGAINST SENATOR WILLIAM LORIMER AND EDWARD HINES

By FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS

On these pages appears the official proof that a deliberate conspiracy has been framed against Senator William Lorimer. This proof was furnished, not by the defense, but by witnesses called by the Senatorial Investigating Committee. It tells the tale of detectives who were detected in an act which covers with infamy those who employed them.

Senator Lorimer has claimed from the start that the campaign waged against him was based on a criminal conspiracy. Edward Hines has been powerless, until now, to stem the flood of abuse, manufactured evidence and open perjury which has covered the official records. Not one line of verified evidence has been uttered against Mr. Hines which would be accepted in a court of law, but it was made possible, under the rules of the recent hearing, for the conspirators to smirch his reputation by methods which never again will be tolerated by a Congressional committee.

Not until the closing week of the prolonged sessions of the Dillingham Committee was the work of the plotters clearly unmasked. The broad light of day was then turned on some of the principals in this conspiracy, and the climax came when their employees were detected in an attempt of villainy, the boldness of which was rivalled only by the stupidity with which it was executed.

William M. Burgess, a bitter personal enemy of Edward Hines, was one of the original tools used by the conspirators. Burgess was induced to appear before the Dillingham Committee last July. He swore that on March 8, 1911, C. F. Wiehe, relative and business associate of Mr. Hines, boasted in the smoking compartment of a Pullman car that he (Wiehe) had contributed \$10,000 to a Lorimer corruption fund. Five business men of high standing

later testified that they were present during all of the time when such an absurd and crazy boast could possibly have been made, and took oaths that Mr. Wiehe made no such remark. Among those who denied this self-evident falsehood was Charles McGowan, a young Canadian of good breeding and connections, son of John McGowan, of Elora, Ontario, ex-member of the Dominion Parliament.

The Dillingham Committee was induced to employ the Burns Detective Agency to shadow young McGowan. For three months a detective, known as A. C. Bailey, became the close associate of Charles McGowan. At the end of that period the counsel of the Committee closely examined the reports submitted from time to time by Bailey, was compelled to admit that the alleged evidence was not worth considering, and the Committee dismissed the Burns agency from its employ. What then happened?

Detective Bailey, and doubtless other detectives, were then employed by Clarence S. Funk, General Manager of the International Harvester Company, and author of the original and now disproved charges against Edward Hines. It has not yet developed whether Funk was acting for himself or for his company. The sworn testimony discloses the fact that, about the middle of January, James Keeley, Editor of the Chicago Tribune, had a conference with William J. Burns, and gave the latter instructions as to what was wanted of him. The combination thus became Funk, Keeley and Burns.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE CONSPIRACY.

Charles McGowan gave his testimony before the Dillingham Committee in Washington on July 18, 1911. The Committee, as has been stated, was persuaded to employ the Burns Detective Agency to trail and "rope" Mr. McGowan. Detective Bailey entered on this work on July 20. Bailey met McGowan in Regina, Saskatchewan, on August 7, and was with him most of the time until October 26, at which time the Dillingham Committee dispensed with the services of the Burns agency for the reason that nothing incriminating had been proved against Mr. McGowan.

Promptly thereafter, Bailey and R. J. Burns—son of W. J. Burns—called on Clarence S. Funk and Edgar A. Bancroft, leading officials of the International Harvester Company, and Bailey was reemployed by them to report on McGowan. Bailey was taken off the case shortly afterwards, but it may be presumed that Funk and Bancroft employed other detectives to keep up the quest. McGowan was in Chicago with Bailey at the time when the Committee decided to spend no more money on Burns and his men. According to the testimony later given by Bailey, McGowan was there for the purpose of demanding \$5,000 from "the Hines bunch" as the reward for his alleged perjury. It is singular that Bailey—then in the employ of Funk—did not deem it necessary to arrest McGowan red-

handed after Mr. C. F. Wiehe was alleged to have paid McGowan \$1,500 in cash.

The facts are, of course, that Bailey, Funk, Keeley, of the Chicago Tribune, and all concerned, knew that McGowan was in Chicago on a perfectly legitimate mission, and that he was waiting for the return of Mr. Wiehe to adjust a claim for losses to which McGowan honestly was entitled.

On December 21, Bailey again took the McGowan trail, this time in the employ of James Keeley, of the Chicago Tribune. Bailey opened a correspondence with McGowan, proceeded by slow stages to Toronto, commissioned to execute a plot. Bailey took with him to Toronto, Kerr, described by W. J. Burns as "the prominent business man of Detroit," also Sheridan, "the boy stenographer," and his famous dictagraph. He also had the assistance of a swarm of other detectives, a considerable contingent of the combined Funk-Tribune staff of sleuths. Two of these were sent to Elora, the others hung about Toronto.

On the night of January 6, 1912, Charles McGowan was introduced to Kerr. Only an abject idiot would confide anything to Kerr, yet the public is asked to believe that the intelligent and well-bred Charles McGowan went to a room with Bailey and Kerr, and then and there proclaimed himself a perjurer in the presence of a hang-dog stranger, also that a dictagraph conveyed McGowan's insane confessions to the ears of "stenographer" Sheridan. Mr. McGowan was not intoxicated. Bailey admitted under oath that he had never seen Charles McGowan under the influence of liquor.

The unsuspecting McGowan parted with his "friends" and returned to Elora on January 8. On the following day, Senator Lorimer took the stand at Washington. It was generally understood that the investigation would close with the taking of his testimony. Funk, Keeley and Burns must have known of the result of the "trapping" of McGowan on January 7. They could have laid it before the Committee on the following day, and would have done so had their motives been honest or honorable. Did they do this? Not at all. Why? Because they knew that they had no evidence which the Committee or the public would accept. These moral conspirators in a moral plot to "drive Senator Lorimer out of politics" were well aware that William J. Burns was truthful when he publicly asserted: "Private detectives, as a class, are the greatest lot of blackmailing thieves that ever went unwhipped of justice." Funk, Keeley and Burns also well know that most private detectives are as adept at perjury as at blackmail, and they had no original intention of putting Bailey, Kerr and Sheridan on the stand.

WAITING FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT.

Not until the psychological moment were the personal services of William J. Burns, "the great detective," called on. Naught save epoch-making crises can

invoke his actual presence and command his monumental genius! On Sunday, January 14—more than a week after Charles McGowan is alleged to have talked into the dictagraph—Mr. Burns honored Toronto with his presence. He called the elder McGowan on the telephone, tactfully informed him that his son had committed perjury, ordered both of the McGowans to come instantly to Toronto, make abject confession, and depend on the mighty Burns to place all of the blame on the wicked Edward Hines, who was to be accused of bribing Charles McGowan to affirm the testimony that had been sworn to by four other honest and reputable gentlemen. Mr. John McGowan promptly told Burns that he was a liar, and did not come to Toronto, where the dictagraph was awaiting him.

Those who care to examine the official record spread on these pages can form their own conclusions concerning what would have been alleged against John McGowan and his son, Charles, had they come to Toronto and submitted to the “third degree” by William J. Burns, as it might have been transmitted by the dictagraph to the accommodating ears of Sheridan, Burns’ private secretary. The reader can see for himself, by examining these pages, how much relation sound waves translated by Sheridan over a Burns dictagraph bear to what actually is spoken by three participants in a conversation.

Burns knew, of course, that Charles McGowan—if guilty of perjury—would not leave the protection of Canada, his native home, and throw himself on the mercy of Funk, Keeley and Burns. Had the two McGowans walked into the trap, we may assume that the dictagraph would have done the rest, even though the intended victims had not uttered an incriminating word.

Having worked the dictagraph on the McGowans, it would then have been an easy matter to frighten Charles McGowan to go into hiding—assuming, as Burns probably did, that the young man stood in proper fear of the Funk-Tribune-Burns syndicate. With Charles McGowan in flight, and with the two alleged dictagraph records ready for copying in Sheridan’s note book, the moment would have been propitious to move on Washington and offer the damning evidence the moment Senator Lorimer concluded his testimony. It would then be impossible to contradict it before the close of the hearing.

On Monday, January 15, after becoming convinced that neither of the McGowans could be lured to Toronto, Burns left for Baltimore. In his testimony he is uncertain whether he held a conference with Editor Keeley in Baltimore, on Monday or Tuesday. Lorimer was still on the witness stand on Tuesday, but it was announced that a few more hours would complete his testimony. On Wednesday, January 17, no session was held on account of what was considered a slight indisposition on the part of Judge Haney. On the following day, J. J. Healy and John H. Marble, official counsel for the Committee, submitted to Chairman Dillingham and others of the Committee a confidential statement of what Burns promised to prove. This was on Thursday. It was deemed a certainty that the week would see the end of the protracted investigation. The con-

spirators planned that Burns should tell his tale, submit his alleged proof, challenge the defense to produce McGowan, and thus crown with success the moral effort to "drive Senator Lorimer out of politics."

"A BREACH OF CONFIDENCE."

Three other things happened on that day which proved most disconcerting to the Funk-Tribune-Burns syndicate. Chairman Dillingham deemed it his duty to notify Edward Hines that Burns claimed to possess evidence which would convict him of bribery and Charles McGowan of perjury. This notification reached Mr. Hines while he was on a business trip to Buffalo. After a sensational trip he reached the little town of Elora long after midnight, roused the McGowans, listened to Charles' frank account of what had happened, and secured the promise of father and son to proceed to Washington and face the men who had decreed their disgrace as part of the price of purifying Illinois politics. The third distracting happening of that day was the announcement that the illness of Judge Hanecy was so serious that it was likely the sessions of the Committee would be postponed for several days. The fuse to the mine had been lighted prematurely! Another blow fell on Saturday when the Associated Press sent out a fairly accurate account of the alleged trapping of McGowan.

In an editorial statement, published on Sunday, January 21, the Chicago Tribune asserted that there had been "a deliberate breach of faith on the part of some one in Washington." That great newspaper, founded by Joseph Medill, fell so far from its high estate that it whined because warning had been given to Edward Hines and Charles McGowan that a plot was on foot to assassinate their characters.

The McGowans headed for Washington as fast as steam could carry them. The Funk-Tribune-Burns syndicate had the choice of withdrawing their charges or of attempting to deceive the Committee with what "evidence" they dared produce. They elected to choose the latter alternative. They now realize their monumental blunder. Edward Hines called the Burns bluff—and these pages display the pitiful hand laid down by "the great detective."

Burns took the stand on January 31, and disgusted the Committee and the large audience with his insolence and egotism. He shifted most of the responsibility on his men. His account of his effort to reform Charles McGowan, through attempts to force him to confess to a crime not committed, caused mingled laughter and contempt. Burns was forced to admit that ex-convicts, yeggmen and other crooks are on his pay rolls. He admitted that Funk and Keeley are his clients. After a merciless grilling by Judge Hanecy he left Washington, nor could the distressing plight of his confederates induce him to return to the capital until the hearings were over.

A. C. Bailey then took the stand. His testimony was to the effect that Charles McGowan constantly burdened him with confessions of perjury. Bailey was a picturesque but careless liar. He had been too lazy to study the testimony and therefore ascribed to McGowan meaningless charges and contradictory falsehoods. Bailey admitted that during the three months he had been unable to secure a witness to McGowan's alleged incessant confessions of perjury. All that Bailey had to offer was his note book and his imagination. The slinking Kerr then took the stand. This "prominent business man of Detroit" was a repulsive joke. The defense had several witnesses on hand who were eager to reveal Kerr's record, but after seeing and hearing that person, the august Committee decided that it was not necessary to prove the obvious.

SHERIDAN AND HIS DICTAGRAPH.

Intense interest was displayed when James E. Sheridan took the stand. This nineteen-year-old boy stated that he was Burns' private secretary, and that he had been sent to Toronto to use a dictagraph on McGowan. The public had been led to believe that the "dictagraph" was an automatic instrument which records all sounds from an adjacent room. It was presumed to be so perfect that it would repeat the exact accent of any human voice. It was assumed that the great Burns had thus invented and applied a device which would be the terror of criminals; a wonderful mechanism from whose testimony there could be no appeal.

It was now learned that it was a crude affair with a receiver of sounds at one end and a transmitter at the other, and that the operator was compelled to take stenographic notes of what he was able to hear, also that the transmitter was attached so clumsily to one ear that he was compelled to use one hand to hold it properly in place. Sheridan admitted that he was thus compelled to handle his note book, turn its pages, hold them in place with a Bible and take stenographic notes, all this with one hand. There was nothing automatic about it. It was merely a clumsy telephone. Its value as a producer of testimony depended on the skill and honesty of Sheridan—private secretary to a private detective.

The expert official stenographers of the Senate and the House of Representatives who were present when Sheridan made this explanation looked at him and at one another in amazement. The word passed around: "He is either a marvel or a liar!" Handicapped, as described, Sheridan was alleged to have taken the vital portions of the dialogue of three men in another room, to have recognized their voices, and to have transcribed an accurate version of their conversation.

Sheridan produced his note book and began to read from it. Milton W. Blumenberg, official reporter for a quarter of a century of the Senate of the United States, took a position back of the witness and closely scanned the characters from which Sheridan read. One look convinced Blumenberg that they

were not genuine. To his trained eye they conveyed the sure indications of fraud, but Blumenberg said nothing at that time. This is what Sheridan read from his alleged notes, purporting to be a record of what was said in an adjoining room by A. C. Bailey, Harry E. Kerr and Charles McGowan:

WHAT SHERIDAN CLAIMS HE HEARD IN TORONTO.

Mr. Bailey. "Did they use you pretty well before you got through, Charlie?"

Charles McGowan. "I made them come across. They had to. They had to come across."

Mr. Kerr. "These fellows, especially Hines, are a bad lot. He is so crooked he can't lay in bed straight."

Charles McGowan. "Yes; he is crooked. I found that out."

Mr. Kerr. "If I had any dealings with him, I would want what was coming to me first."

Charles McGowan. "You know what I did—I went down there and perjured myself as deep as I could. After they got what they wanted——"

Mr. Kerr. "Down at Washington, eh?"

Mr. Kerr. "They don't care anything about you?"

Charles McGowan. "No; Christ, no."

Charles McGowan. "I tell you, Wiehe came down. Listen: The fellow who was standing close to you—I didn't see you after that."

Mr. Bailey. "I saw you were with one of the fellows, and walked in, and when I came out you were gone."

Charles McGowan. "When I got off the stand, they kept me for two weeks and then put me on again, and let me go on the promise that I would go back. I came to Chicago——"

Mr. Kerr. "Probably they were through with you, and thought if you stayed around Chicago much longer you would cause some trouble."

Mr. Bailey. "The other side would cause some trouble."

Charles McGowan. "You are damn right!"

Charles McGowan. "Jesus Christ; If I had not been in my own room, Wiehe would have shot me. I said: 'You s— of a b—, do you think I am going to Washington and perjure myself for the first time in my life for nothing?' He said: 'We will pay you anything that's fair.' I said: 'What do you think is fair?' He said: 'I don't mind paying two or three hundred dollars.' I said: 'That's no good.' Why, I would just as soon rapped him in the face. I wanted yes or no. I said: 'I am not making any threats, but I want yes or no.' "

Mr. Bailey. "He couldn't give you too much for a thing like that."

Mr. Bailey. "If you had told them they would have to come through first, there would have been nothing to it, then. That's what you should have done——"

Mr. Bailey. "Did Mr. Wiehe finally settle with you, Charlie?"

Charles McGowan. "Oh, yes. He finally settled."

Mr. Bailey. "Is he one of the firm?"

Charles McGowan. "No; he is a brother-in-law of Hines. He is a millionaire, you know."

Mr. Kerr. "Who is this fellow? He's Irish, isn't he?"

Charles McGowan. "Yes."

Mr. Bailey. "He is so God damned mean."

Charles McGowan. "He wanted me to realize that—that he had to run it."

Charles McGowan. "I made the first offer and Wiehe refused it—then he agreed to it—there was no sense taking it; Jesus Christ! I guess he thought that he was a friend of mine."

Kerr. "How much did you get?"

Charles McGowan. "\$1,500."

Bailey. (Sparring around.) "What does \$5,000 mean to them?"

Bailey. "They were scared to death."

Charles McGowan. "They tried to scare me. They tried to make the impression that I would be in bad if I stuck."

Sheridan. (Explaining to Committee.) Here the tube disconnected, as I stated. Then I heard: "In the smoking compartment * * * you don't know very damn much about it."

Bailey. "You were never acquainted with Burgess, were you?"

Charles McGowan. "Oh, yes."

Kerr. "Was he a witness in this?"

Charles McGowan. "Yes; he was a witness——"

Kerr. "Was the fellow who went after Hines, eh?"

Bailey. "He didn't go after Hines, did he? He was against Hines all the way through."

Bailey. "Jesus Christ! It was a wonder they didn't get him."

Charles McGowan. "Yes. Well, one man would say one thing and then another man would go down and call him an absolute liar. Wiehe said: 'Well, by God, if I have made a statement like that——' "

THE EXPLOSION.

The cross examination of Sheridan was in progress when Senator Lea asked: "Where are the notes?" Blumenberg replied: "I sent them to the office. I wanted the concurrence of my associates. It looks to me as if these notes are manufactured." "What do you mean?" asked Senator Lea. "I think they were written afterwards," declared Blumenberg, "written from some other communication; copied; because **THEY ARE A PERFECT FAKE; THEY ARE AN ABSOLUTE FAKE!** That is what I mean!"

This dramatic accusation was the first open avowal charging fraud and conspiracy. It was a frank and manly protest against a miserable plot, and it served notice on the plotters that their methods had been detected.

On the following Monday, February 5, Mr. Blumenberg was called to the witness stand. He gave in exhaustive detail the professional reasons which proved that Sheridan's notes were spurious. Here is a skeleton of some of the sworn testimony of the leading stenographic expert in the United States, the official reporter of seven great national conventions; at one time the official reporter of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the trusted stenographer generally called on to record the executive sessions of the United States Senate. Mr. Blumenberg thus took oath:

"I have never seen a bolder attempt to pull off anything in my life than that exhibited by these notes * * * The notes show a perfect regularity * * * There are no corrections * * * If you will examine the notes of a reporter who is accustomed to do that sort of work you will find that he will strike out certain characters. These stenographic notes are perfectly regular and uniform * * * No one sitting at the end of a telephone—which is practically what this device is—attempting to write shorthand and take down this conversation could do so and turn it out as it appears in these notes * * * These characters show no indication of speed. This looks like the work of an amateur * * * They were never taken at an actual conversation * * * The man who wrote them did so at his leisure. * * *

In the course of a long examination, Mr. Blumenberg made a proposition which dazed the prosecution. He said, pointing to a slip of paper: "Here is a list containing the names of eleven stenographers, and if any one of these men will go on the stand and say that these notes in question are actual notes, I shall have nothing more to say. I will read this list:

"Theodore F. Shuey, Official Reporter, United States Senate.

"Edward F. Murphy, Official Reporter, United States Senate.

"Fred Irland, Official Reporter, House of Representatives.

"Allister Cochrane, Official Reporter, House of Representatives.

"Mendum Blumenberg, my brother, Official Committee Stenographer of the House of Representatives.

"Percy E. Budlong, professional reporter here in Washington, who has been assisting me in this case.

"Griffith L. Johnson, professional reporter in Washington.

"H. H. Pechin, professional reporter in Washington.

"William Herbert Smith, professional reporter in Washington.

"John W. Hulse, who has been selected to succeed me here.

"Frank R. Hanna, who is now taking notes of these proceedings."

Mr. Blumenberg could safely have included in that list every first-class stenographer in the United States. Scores of Washington expert short-hand

reporters have examined Sheridan's notes. Without exception these capable and disinterested men and women unhesitatingly declared them spurious. Sheridan—and the Chicago Tribune—stood alone in maintaining that they were genuine.

It is doubtful if a member of the Dillingham Committee seriously questioned Mr. Blumenberg's word, but to be fair to the dazed prosecution they called two other great experts to the witness stand. The scholarly Allister Cochrane, for years the Official Reporter of the House of Representatives, swore positively that Sheridan's notes were manufactured. Mr. H. H. Pechin, an acknowledged authority on the art of stenography, gave unhesitating testimony to the same effect. It was a certainty that all of the great experts listed by Mr. Blumenberg would confirm the testimony of those who had preceded them. It was therefore a waste of time to listen to their testimony. It only remained to give Sheridan a test.

It was the contention of Mr. Blumenberg and all other experts that the notes alleged to have been taken by Sheridan in Toronto showed no indications of speed, also that he could not imitate them and report a genuine conversation. It was not disputed that he could catch and record an occasional phrase. A school boy could do that in long-hand.

The exact nature of the test demanded of Sheridan was clearly stated by Chairman Dillingham in these words:

“Mr. Sheridan was placed in another room, as nearly as could be determined under conditions like those under which he testified he used the dictagraph at Toronto. The first test was a general conversation between Messrs. Bailey and Kerr and Mr. Pierce, the Secretary of the Committee. Mr. Sheridan was alone in the room where he was taking his notes.

“In the second test Messrs. Bailey, Kerr and Ward were engaged in the conversation. At that time Mr. Pierce was in the room where Mr. Sheridan was at work to observe whether he used the earpiece with the strap or whether he kept his hand over it, as appeared in the testimony given by him in this case to have been done on the occasion at Toronto.

“Instructions were given to Mr. Sheridan to select from the conversations between the parties already named those portions that related to this case. He was not required to take the balance of the conversation; in fact, he was directed not to do so.

“The members of the Committee who are now present at the table were present at the test. The official stenographers of the Committee, Mr. Hulse and Mr. Budlong, were present in the room where the conversation took place, and took down the entire conversation.”

For the convenience of the reader I insert a sheet displaying in parallel columns what actually was said by three men, and what Sheridan managed to record. The student of this incident has only to glance at that page to be convinced that the private secretary to William J. Burns utterly failed in both

tests. This mere boy, unskilled in stenography, had essayed the impossible and with the inevitable result. When Sheridan took the witness stand after the test and read his incoherent snatches of the actual conversations, a feeling of pity and of sympathy went up even from those who despised the plot and the plotters then revealed.

Before asking the reader to study the outcome of that test, it may be well for him to read what the Chicago Tribune saw fit to print on the following day. It is to be hoped that journalistic mendacity sounded its lowest depths in the Chicago Tribune dispatch of February 10, 1912, in which a headline proclaimed: "YOUNG OPERATOR, BY RIGID TEST, PROVES VALUE OF DICTAGRAPH RECORDS." In the body of the dispatch were such captions as: "Notes of Sheridan Perfect," "Amazed at Sheridan's Skill," and "Other Stenographers Fail."

A sample falsehood in this amazing and insolent tissue of Tribune fabrications is the assertion: "In every instance Sheridan's notes show he identified the voices of Bailey and Kerr, as well as those of strangers."

Those who wish to comprehend the spirit which has animated the Chicago Tribune in its protracted campaign of abuse and slander against Senator Lorimer and his friends, can now weigh its claim of victory for Sheridan in the scales with this official record as certified by the Government of the United States.

The matter printed in italics on the enclosed folder pertains to the Lorimer case, and it was the task of Sheridan to take every word of these portions. Study it and judge how he failed.

ANALYSIS OF A PITIFUL FAILURE.

Sheridan was thoroughly familiar with the voices of Bailey and Kerr, his detective associates. For ten days or more he had been practicing day and night in a desperate attempt to make the best possible showing. Blumenberg and other experts had declared that Sheridan's Toronto notes were copied; that they were taken leisurely, and that no man living could write such regular and perfect characters with speed enough to record even the most deliberate conversation.

Sheridan was aware, or was advised, that no matter what the result, he must duplicate as closely as possible the type of notes alleged to have been taken when Charles McGowan was in an adjoining room in a Toronto hotel. It was not disputed that Sheridan could form such amateurish notes in Washington, but it was asserted that he could develop no speed with such carefully drawn characters.

Sheridan had the alternative either of abandoning all attempts to follow the conversation, or of recording it in genuine, rapidly written characters which would bear no resemblance to those copied in Toronto. He chose the former expedient. His confederates, Bailey and Kerr, were shrewd enough to talk

very slowly and distinctly, but it was Sheridan's particular task to distinguish and record everything said by the "strange voice." A more crushing failure would have been impossible.

There is not a newspaper reporter in the United States, able to hold his job for a week, who can not take five times as much from a "strange voice" in long-hand and with his cuffs for a note book.

In the first test, Mr. Pierce, Clerk of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, was the "strange voice," and took part in the conversation thirty-seven times on matters connected with the Lorimer case. On six of these occasions Sheridan recognized his voice and attempted to record what he said. Pierce spoke 482 words; Sheridan recorded 32, and ON NO OCCASION DID SHERIDAN CONVEY THE MEANING PLAINLY EXPRESSED BY MR. PIERCE. This is what the Chicago Tribune characterizes as a performance by which the expert stenographers present were "amazed at Sheridan's skill."

A TYPICAL SHERIDAN BLUNDER.

The reader must bear in mind that young Sheridan was offered as a witness by William J. Burns. Through a dictagraph, Sheridan claimed to have heard and accurately recorded a conversation which was alleged to convict Charles McGowan of perjury, Edward Hines of bribery, and which testimony was offered before an august committee of the United States Senate for the purpose of unseating Senator William Lorimer, elected by the Legislature of Illinois to the highest honor in the gift of that great State. What was the result of this fair test to determine if Sheridan took the alleged notes?

This is what we find: The nearest that Sheridan came in the first test to recording anything actually said by Mr. Pierce is his version of a sentence thus reported by the official stenographer: "Have you been interested in the case before?" In place of this, Sheridan records Mr. Pierce as asking: "Have you been *in* the case before?" The Chicago Tribune considers this a marvel of accuracy—and it is—from the Chicago Tribune viewpoint.

Suppose that Mr. James Keeley, officiating editor of the Chicago Tribune, were in a room conversing with a number of friends, and that Sheridan was in an adjoining room "roping" Keeley with the Burns type of dictagraph. Suppose that Keeley then remarked to William J. Burns and Clarence S. Funk: "For years I have been interested in jails in various States," which would be a natural statement for a newspaper editor to make. Now suppose that Sheridan swore later to the accuracy of notes which recorded Keeley as declaring: "For years I have been in jails in various States." Would that be a substantially accurate version of the meaning which Mr. Keeley attempted at that time to convey? The Tribune says so.

Sheridan was not able to record from Pierce even the four word sentence and

question: "Not closely at all?" Out of the thirty-seven times when Pierce took part in the conversation, Sheridan missed him absolutely thirty-one times. Read all that Sheridan gathered from the talk of these three men, then determine for yourself if it makes sense or has coherency. He was able to transcribe only a fraction of the artificially slow remarks of Bailey and Kerr.

Yet this was the same Sheridan who was in an adjoining room in a Toronto hotel when he alleges that the angry Charles McGowan delivered this tirade, which must have been spoken rapidly and excitedly, if at all:

STRANGE VOICE. "— —! If I had not been in my own room, Wiehe would have shot me. I said: 'You — of a —, do you think I am going to Washington and perjure myself for the first time in my life for nothing?' He said: 'We will pay you anything that's fair.' I said: 'What do you think is fair?' He said: 'I don't mind paying two or three hundred dollars.' I said: 'That's no good.' Why, I would just as soon rapped him in the face. I wanted yes or no. I said: 'I am not making any threats, but I want yes or no.' "

Here are 106 consecutive words reported by Sheridan, which, if true, frame a damning indictment against Charles McGowan and C. F. Wiehe, both of whom have never been accused of wrong save by the tools of conspirators. What happened in Washington when Sheridan was put to a test? The longest sentence spoken by Mr. Pierce contained only forty-two words, and "Lorimer" was the fourth word uttered, thus giving Sheridan full warning. Here is one of the sentences which Sheridan should have taken in its entirety:

MR. PIERCE. "In following this Lorimer case, you say the papers all over the country have been more or less filled with the account of the hearings. You say, Bailey, that you never remember reading of it before you were employed by your agency?"

Sheridan was able to reduce to his amateurish notes symbols which stood for this: "Lorimer case. The papers all over the country," and not one word more. This was another triumph for the Chicago Tribune. Its employee collected eight words out of forty-two, but did not have time to make sense with them. Sheridan apparently had plenty of time in Toronto.

ANALYSIS OF SECOND SHERIDAN TEST.

In the second test Mr. Ward, private secretary to Senator Lorimer, officiated as the "strange voice." Mr. Ward took part in the conversation thirty-three times on topics pertaining to the Lorimer case. Sheridan made twelve attempts to transcribe what Ward said. He succeeded in reporting two short sentences correctly, and in all of the long period in which he was under test these are the sole instances of accuracy. These are more than offset by the vital mistakes of ascribing to Ward two sentences uttered by Bailey. These glaring blunders

would have destroyed the value of Sheridan's test even had he been able to take every word spoken, in place of the tiny percentage actually displayed.

The Chicago Tribune declares: "In every instance Sheridan's notes show he identified the voices of Bailey and Kerr, as well as those of strangers."

It may be a fruitless task to prove that paper a deliberate falsifier of facts, but here is the record:

Bailey said, in his normal tone of voice: "I think, if I remember rightly, they were in session there at that time."

Sheridan ascribed this remark to the "strange voice." A moment later Bailey said: "Yes, in October." Again Sheridan quoted this as coming from the "strange voice."

This is a sample of the thousands of false statements on which the Chicago Tribune has based its crusade to "purify Illinois politics."

We find in the record that Ward asks as a question: "The 18th of October?" Sheridan records him as thus answering a question or making a statement. On another occasion Bailey said: "Well, I left Detroit for Toronto." Sheridan quotes Bailey as asserting: "I went to Detroit." Possibly even the Tribune will admit that this was not strictly accurate.

The real test of the value of Sheridan's notes consists in a consecutive reading of them. His Toronto notes told the plain story of a confession of bribery and perjury. There were slight breaks, but the story was there. What do his Washington notes reveal? Nothing—nothing save that the predictions of Blumenberg and other qualified experts were verified.

SOME STARTLING FACTS.

Burns detectives in the employ of Clarence S. Funk, general manager of the International Harvester Company, and James Keeley, nominal editor of the Chicago Tribune, were in Chicago shadowing Charles McGowan in the latter part of October, 1911. One of them, A. C. Bailey, enjoyed the complete confidence of McGowan, and knew that the latter was to make a settlement with C. F. Wiche for losses sustained by reason of his retention as a witness in the Lorimer case. Bailey, Funk and Keeley knew that this settlement was made. Had they deemed it an illegitimate settlement they could and should have ordered the arrest of McGowan, and thus have caught him in actual possession of bribery money.

Knowing that a settlement had been made—and it was an honest settlement—they took no such step. McGowan was permitted to return to his home in Elora. On January 6, 1912, he was lured by Bailey to a hotel in Elora, for the alleged purpose of operating a dictagraph on him.

William J. Burns certainly knew that the word of James E. Sheridan, his private secretary, would not be accepted as the recorder of what came through

the wire of the dictagraph. If Burns and Funk and Keeley actually believed McGowan guilty; if they had reason to believe that he would make a confession in the room of that Toronto hotel—what would have been the plain course open to them? Not the employment of a boy detective, unskilled in stenography, but the services of a trained court reporter from Toronto.

That such would have been the course pursued by fair and honest investigators is so clear that it need not be discussed. Such a stenographer could have taken a transcript of all said in the adjoining room. The sworn word of such a stenographer would have been accepted in any court of law, and would have been conclusive before the Dillingham Committee. The denials of McGowan would have been unheeded. All this is obvious.

Instead of adopting this rational and honest policy, what was done? The discredited Bailey and the slinking Kerr were placed in the room with McGowan, and the "boy stenographer" located in an adjoining apartment. If Sheridan then really took any notes, experts declare that they were not exhibited to the Committee. A week later and we find William J. Burns in Toronto attempting to frighten the McGowans over a telephone. Burns then leaves Toronto in doubt whether or not Charles McGowan will fly for safety. A few days later and a hint of the plot is revealed to Edward Hines, who promptly calls the Burns bluff. The exposure of Sheridan followed inevitably when stenographic experts glanced at his notes.

Did Bailey, Kerr and Sheridan attempt this fraud on their own initiative? Did they assume this tremendous responsibility without authority from some one "higher up?" If so, who were the individuals who decreed that the reputation of Charles McGowan should be blasted and his career ruined? What object did these conspirators have in mind?

**For additional information and future articles on
this subject, address**

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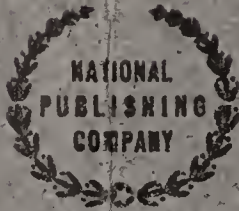
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